M * O * M

MICRO OF MONMOUTH

P.O.Box 221
Englishtown,NJ 07726

NEWSLETTER

December 1985 Vol.4 Issue 7

* * * SEASONS GREETINGS * * *

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JANUARY MEETINGS:

MONDAY, JANUARY 6

8:00 PM
Manalapan H.S.
Room E-108

Several demos..games and utilities
Tutorial..questions and answer period

MONDAY, JANUARY 27

8:00 PM
Manalapan H.S.
ROOm E-108

Review of latest Atari news, new software and ST software.
Demos and questions answered.

M * O * M

Micro of Monmouth

The Newsletter of the Computer Club of Monmouth, Inc.

The Computer Club of Monmouth,Inc. is a non-profit organization of ATARI computer enthusiasts and users who share a common interest in exchanging information about programming an operation of the ATARI computer system.

The club meets at Manalapan High School at 8:00 PM on the first and third Mondays of each month. The meeting dates are changed or cancelled when a holiday or foul weather causes the school to be closed.

Neither M.O.M. newsletter or the Computer Club of Monmouth,Inc. is affiliated with ATARI Corp., ATARI Inc., Warner Communication or any of their subsidiary companies. All use of the word "ATARI" or the Fuji logo is recognized as a trademark of ATARI Corp.

The M.O.M. newsletter solicits from its members reviews, news, rumors, articles, original programs, classified ads, and any other material of interest for publication. All material submitted for publication should be given to the Editor at the meetings or mailed to the club address.

The material printed in the M.O.M. newsletter may be freely copied. We request that credit be given to its authors and to M.O.M. This newsletter is sent to paid-up members of the club and to other user groups on an exchange basis. User groups interested in exchanging newsletters should write to the club address.

The club supports its own Bulletin Board System that is on-line 24 hours a day with a special section for M.O.M. members. The BBS is open to all types of computers after a name/address verification.

WHO'S WHO AT M * O * M

ELECTED OFFICERS:

President - Ken Kelly	Vice Pres - Mike Carovillano
Secretary - George Sullivan	Prog.Chair - Al Pavlick
Librarian - Thomas Stokes	Doc Library - Norman Wersan
Editor - Irwin Kaplan	MOM's BBS - 201-738-4982

SUBCOMMITTIES:

Frank Fezza - Acting Liaison to the Board of Education
Jimmy Krutzler - BBS Sysop

EDITORIAL

Here it is the middle of November and I don't see any concerted newspaper advertisements for the Atari computers. Yes, I do see the magazine ads for the ST, but is that it for X-MAS marketing? How can that selling effort support Atari production and research?

And, I'm not just talking about local newspapers. The New York City newspapers have had very little Atari advertising - from Atari or from dealers. It seems to me that the distribution of the ST is critical to the success of Atari and time is not standing still.

What's more improtant is that competition is growing in the low-end market. More Asian made computers are entering the market and establishing a following which reduces the universe for Atari. These computers are mostly IBM compatibles but that only makes matters worse. Who besides us wants to work with and build a library of applications on a unique system? And look at the price, below $1000 for compatibles with 2 disk drives and 640K.

The answer to my doubts could be that Atari is having trouble getting software into the market for the ST and that the competition has a glut of old machines to sell for X-MAS.(IBM is spending big bucks advertising the PCjr for $650.) Who can win an advertising battle with IBM?

OK Atari, then start making it easier for the third party writers to produce software, and market their products aggressively. And,decide where BASIC is going to reside-in a chip or on a disk. Hurry up...even the government runs out of money when congress doesn't move fast enough.

Irwin Kaplan,Editor
November 1985

ATARI NEWS

If you want to get excited again about Atari, read the January issue of ANTIC. There are advertisements and listings of new Atari software. You get the feel that a momentum is building. Third party writers and Atari have to keep this going for a viable Atari future.Ed.

Here is a listing of some of those ads.

Six-Gun Shootout	SSI
Colonial Conquets	SSI
Battle of Antietam	SSI
Kennedy Approach	Micro Pose
The Halley Project	Mindscape,Inc.
The GCP City	GCP,INC.
The Game Floor:	GCP,INC.
Lords of Space:	GCP,INC.
Bugrunner	Isis
Kwick-Check	Datamost,Inc.
Kwick-Phone	Datamost,Inc.
Kwick-Pad	Datamost,Inc.
Kwick-File	Datamost,Inc.
Kwick-Spell	Datamost,Inc.
Kwick-Mail	Datamost,Inc
Kwick-Write	Datamost,Inc.
Kwick-Print	Datamost,Inc.
Kwick-Form	Datamost,Inc.

And,a host of new ST software programs. Get yourself a copy of this Antic issue if you want to see what happening with the ST.

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Graphic programs to do color animation, support graphic text as well as stero sound are under development by third party software publishers. A new machine is being developed using these developments that will be aimed directly at the workstation market - the Atari TT. The Atari TT, expected in 1986 will cost around $3,000 and will support the Unix operating system.

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Moving ST's

According to Sam Tramiel, Atari has shipped about 50,000 Sts as of the end of September!!!That is a remarkable feat considering the short development time.

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Irwin Kaplan - Editor

THE COMPUTER PARADE

CD-ROM NOTES

The computer industry is preparing to take advantage of the new compact dusk(CD) players now proliferating in the consumer audio market by implementing the CD players in computer systems for reading preprinted data base information and even systems software programs. Computer information is prepublished on the same medium as CD audio disks, which allow storage of large quantities of information. CD-ROM (compact disk read-only memory) now coming to market offer storage of from 540Mbytes to 600 Mbytes for read-only applications.

According to the experts,the beauty of CD-ROM is that from an electronics standpoint,the CD-ROM players are basically identical to the CD audio players. That means existing facilities can be shared to produce both audio and computer disks. Unlike expensive optical disk technology, CD audio players retail for around $200 to $250 and it is expected that the CD-ROM players won't cost much more. Currently, Sony,Hitachi,Panasonic,Toshiba,Denon and Philips produce CD-ROM players.

Several software companies have already begun to offer CD-ROM software but are limited only for operation on specific CD drives. Standards are being set so that within a few years you will see CD-ROM taking over a lot of software media and information storage applications.

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1200 BAUD MODEM ANNOUNCED TO DEALERS

The 1200/300 Baud Smart Communications System is now available from 1-800-FLOPPYS, a Southfield,Michigan based floppy disk retailer. The device which connects most PC's to household telephones, allows users to access other modem equipped computers, retrieve stock information, check UPI and AP news wire services and shop from computer run catalogs.

The communication system comes with modem,software and cables. In addition, a toll-free technical support line is provided as well as a user manual, free Newsnet time and membership to the Delphi on-line data base.

With a minimum disk order, the 1200/300 Baud Smart Modem Communication System costs $99.

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EPSON

Epson is giving up the ghost and joining the crowd. Instead of pushing their non compatible computers, it will introduce a family of 16-bit desktop computers,called Equity computers, compatible with IBM's PC,PC/XT and PC/AT.

The Equity I, compatible with the IBM PC, comes with one floppy disk drive and lists at $995.

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THE MORGUE

Two computer magazines will cease publishing with their December 1985 edition.Creative Computing and Popular Computing are two of the latest casualties of the computer industry doldrums. David Ahl of Creative Computing put out a quality product and OUTPOST:ATARI will be missed.

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AND THE SURVIVORS

According to a market research report on the computer industry, vendors who survive the current slow down will emerge leaner,more focused, and generally stronger than before.These companies will have implemented strategies based on the following realities:

* IBM is the primary competitor in all segments and all markets.

* Few companies will be able to compete with IBM across the board, thus selecting the right niche and its positioning will be crucial.

* Manufacturers focusing on small businesses will succeed only if they offer vertical products - software applications and marketing will be the keys.

* Companies focusing on medium to large customers will succeed to the extent that they provide the communications to PCs and to the multiuser systems.These communication links must be easy to configure, install and be compatible with the industry standards.

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Irwin Kaplan
November 1985

SYNCALC APPLICATIONS

I use SyncCalc for forecasting sales at work, for several corporations. While most have the same fiscal year, some do not so I have to change the set-up to recognize the different fiscal year endings. The IF statement allows me to do that effortlessly and it is quite dynamic.Let's look at how this works.

@IF condition THEN x ELSE y

To reach the IF function you enter @IF. The value of the IF function is X if the condition you set is true and Y if the condition is false.The condition can be any valid comparison using <,<=,>,=,or <> as well as AND or OR.

For Example:

@IF A2>A1 THEN @SUM(A1:A2)ELSE @AVG(A1:A2)

This statement returns the sum of A1 and A2 if A2>A1, or the average of A1 and A2 if A2 is not greater than A1.

In my spreadsheet the fourth cell D1 is the fourth month of the corporations' fiscal year. It starts with September,then October,November, and then December, it ends with August.These months are represented by the numbers 9,10,11, and 12.Since there are only 12 months the next month should start again with a 1. I enter the begining month number and year and then use the IF statement, and COPY function.This is how the IF statement takes care of that operation

@IF A1=12 THEN 1 ELSE A1+1.(COPY this statement from A1 to A12).This IF statement returns the number of the next month upto 12 in cell B1, and if A1 is numbered 12 then cell B1 will be 1.This corresponds to the 12 months of a year(January to December).

Enter this statement and then try changing the number in cell A1.If you enter a new number all the others should change automatically.

	A1	B1	C1	D1	E1
1	9	10	11	12	1
2	1985	1985	1985	1985	1986

You can use the same type of IF statement to make the year change automatically also. Do it this way:

@IF A1=12 THEN 1986 ELSE A2.COPY this statement from A1 to A12. The year will now change in Row 2 anytime a cell in ROW 1 contains 12.

Next time we can look at how to use the IF statement to categorize an expense list.

Irwin Kaplan

LETTER PERFECT 6.0 ABSTRACTS

If you are familiar with the old Letter Perfect , you will have to relearn some commands to use it effectively. I've abstracted some of the more common functions and briefly described its use.Editor.

Menu Selections:
Selections from the menu can be made by either positioning the cursor over the desired choice and pressing RETURN or by pressing the key of the first letter of the menu option. For example the LOAD function can be activated by pressing the letter "L".

Saving a File:
Once a file has been loaded or saved, the program remembers its filename, and that becomes the default name when saving.

Double Density:
Double density mode may be selected for text disks allowing the saving of twice the amount of information on one disk. To do so, choose the configuration option from the main menu and make the second drive the "file" drive and change the density to double. Of course, you must have a double density disk in the second drive.

You can also load a single density file and then save it as a double density file. Repeat this process for each single density file you want to transfer, one at a time.

Buffer:
To enter text in the buffer place a CNTRL-D (and inverse D) at the end of the text you want to enter in the buffer. Move the CURSOR to the beginning of the text you want to save in the buffer, and enter CNTRL-7. The text is saved in the buffer, ready to be placed where you want it.

To copy from the buffer, put the CURSOR at the place in the text where you want to enter the text saved in the buffer, and press CNTRL-9. It will enter the saved text -WITHOUT killing it in the buffer.You can copy the buffered text again in an other place in your text.

To lift from the buffer, do as above...but press CNTRL-8.This will lift all the text from the buffer. The buffer will now be empty.

Global Search and Replace:

To search and replace globally,place the CURSOR at the beginning of the text and enter CNTRL-CAPS.Answer the SEARCH and REPLACE questions and press RETURN. The computer will scan the text and automatically replace the word you indicated with the replacement word, and format the text.

Deletion Notes:

To delete use the CNTRL key and the extension.

To Delete:

Current Line	CNTRL-5
All After Cursor	CNTRL-KA
All Before Cursor	CNTRL-KB
All Text	CNTRL-KN
Copy Buffer	CNTRL-KC
All Tabs	CNTRL-KT

Tabs:

To show all the TAB stops press CNTRL-T. To repress the showing of the TAB stops, press RETURN.

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MAXCOPY

From the SNACC buletin board (1-702-733-9488) I downloaded this file copy program. It copies a file or files from a disk and comes in handy when you have to transfer several files from one disk to another. The program prompts you and should be very easy to use by almost everyone. Just boot up DOS and L load MAXCOPY. The program will prompt you for the filename to transfer. Just enter the filename and press RETURN. The question will be repeated until you press RETURN without entering a filename. Then follow the prompts.

I'm giving a copy of this program to our librarian so that it is available to all club members.

This program was downloaded on a first time call-up ,using the ID GUEST. This board is very friendly and gracious about downloading. If you call and find useful programs , please pass them on to the EDitor.

As long as I'm that subject, I would be interested in publishing telephone numbers of boards that have programs that members can download. Just pass them on to me and I'll make sure they get into our newsletter.Editor.

MOM'S DISK NO. 64

Skulls - Two player game to catch the falling skulls on your side. Very fast.

Africa2.Cur - Explore the jungle. Joystick controlled BASIC adventure type game.

Jacgair.exe - MC game. Fly over targets to score. Colored letters in corners provide protection from same color advesaries. A military pac-man.

Memopad.bas - Store and retrieve messages from disk.

Roundup.exe - Good game. Rope the cattle but don't let three get past. Kick them with your horse if you have to. Joystick controls rider and button throws the rope.

Dodge.bas - Race around indoor track and shift lanes to avoid oncoming cars. Simple dot type graphics similar to old arcade game.

Spacersq.bas - Land ship on base to pick up stranded astronaut. Thrust to control landing speed and missle fire to blast asteroids on the way back are controlled by joystick button.

Spacezap.bas - Protect your fortress from alien onslaught from four sides. Faster and somewhat better detailed than other P.D. versions of this concept.

Munchers.bas - Avoide the munchers as they randomly move about an open screen. The longer you last the faster they go. Packman without walls.

```
 DISK:1  DENSITY:SNG
  DOS      SYS 039   DUP      SYS 042
  AUTORUN  SYS 002   MENU         027
  MEMOPAD  BAS 044   MEMO     DAT 001
  DODGE    BAS 036   AFRICA2  CUR 070
  AFRICA2  FNT 009   JACGAIR  EXE 041
  MUNCHERSBAS 048    MEMO     LST 037
  ROUNDUP  EXE 021   SKULLS   EXE 111
  SPACERSQBAS 065    SPACEZAPBAS 075
038 FREE SECTORS
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MOM'S DISK NO. 65

SPACLAND.BAS - GOOD GAME IN WHICH YOU MUST LAND YOUR SHIP ON ONE OF SEVERAL LANDING PLATFORMS USING JOYSTICK AND BUTTON TO DIRECT THRUST.

LUNARLDR.BAS - SIMILAR TO SPACLAND.BAS ONLY YOU TAKE OFF FROM ONE SIDE OF A MOUNTAIN AND LAND ON THE OTHER.

FROG.BAS - GAME IN WHICH YOUR FROG MUST EAT THE FLIES THAT APPROACH FROM ALL SIDES BEFORE THEY GET TO HIM/HER. CUTE GAME FOR CHILDREN BUT IT DOES NOT GET DIFFICULT ENOUGH FOR ADULTS.

TIMTRIAL.BAS - CAR RACE GAME WITH SELECTABLE DIFFICULTY.

MSLECMND.BAS - ADEQUATE BASIC TRANSLATION OF THE CLASSIC ARCADE GAME. PROTECT YOUR CITIES FROM MISSLE ATTACK USING JOYSTICK TO DIRECT FIRE.

WILDWEST.BAS - BASIC GAME WHICH IS SIMILAR IN CONCEPT TO 'KABOOM'. FAST SMOOTH MOVEMENT FOR BASIC. CATCH THE FALLING DYNAMITE.

BACKGAM.BAS - TWO PLAYER BACKGAMMON GAME. USE KEYS TO INDICATE WHICH PIECES TO MOVE AND WHERE TO MOVE THEM. HIT ENTER TO START THE GAME.

XMAS.DEM - CUTE DEMO DISPLAYS SEASONS GREETINGS MESSAGE. THEN, AFTER HAVING YOU INPUT VARIOUS WORDS AND SUBSTITUTING THEN FOR THE REAL WORDS, IT PLAYS A COMICAL "TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS". USES 'TWELVE' AS ITS DATA FILE.

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DISK:1  DENSITY:SNG
 SPACLANDBAS 075   DOS      SYS 039
 BACKGAM BAS 076   FROG     BAS 063
 LUNARLDRBAS 070   TIMTRIALBAS 055
 DUP      SYS 042  MSLECMNDBAS 060
 WILDWESTBAS 066   XMAS     DEM 044
 TWELVE  DAT 095   AUTORUN SYS 002
 MENU        014 006 FREE SECTORS
```

HOME COMPUTER MAGAZINE

At the J.A.C.G. meeting in October a few members recommended this magazine to the membership. My first thought was; great, just what I need another subscription! I subscribe to six magazines (four computer related) already. However, they were adament about its quality so I decided it was worth a look. I hit a few magazine stores during the wek and drew blank stares. It was ironic tha M.O.M. had "demo issues" the following week.

Home Computer is the former Texas Instrument-specific magazine called 99'er. It has evolved into a periodical similar to Compute! magazine in that it covers Apple,Atari, Commodore, IBM, and TI. Unlike Compute! it does not seems to favor the C-machine. The coverage appears to be evenly divided betwen all brands.

The main difference it has to Compute! and all other computer magazines is the amount and type of advertising. The only ads are their own. These consist of books, back issues, and sister magazines. The editor states that this gives them a Consumers Reports type of perspectve and therefore are not swayed by the advertisers revenue. I personally don't care for this approach. Without advertising it is difficult to survive in the long run. Although I hate television commercials, I like to read advertisements in magazines. Unlike tv they are somewhat informative and, you can simply turn the page if you are looking at Mr.Whiple for the hundreth time.

The articles and reviews are informative and interesting. This issue had only one game and a variety of other programs. I find this a good mix. Magazine games were fine a few years ago but today there are too many discounted games available to play with a BASIC one. I think people buy computer magazines as a learning tool and not for games. One program, The Nanoprocessor, is a good example of interesting reading and education. It illustrates the inner workings of a computer on the screen. the article contains a wealth of knowledge in easy to follow prose.

A yearly subscription costs $25. this includes 10 issues and two free disks. A combination subscription (magazine and disk or cassette) averages out to $7.26 each. The average cost with disk of ANALOG, is $10.83, and Antic is $8.33. Typing in the program listings should be easier than other magazines. There are blocks enclosing all letters which are clearly printed. To subscribe call 1-800-828-2212 and have your Visa or Master Charge ready.

Bill Schneider

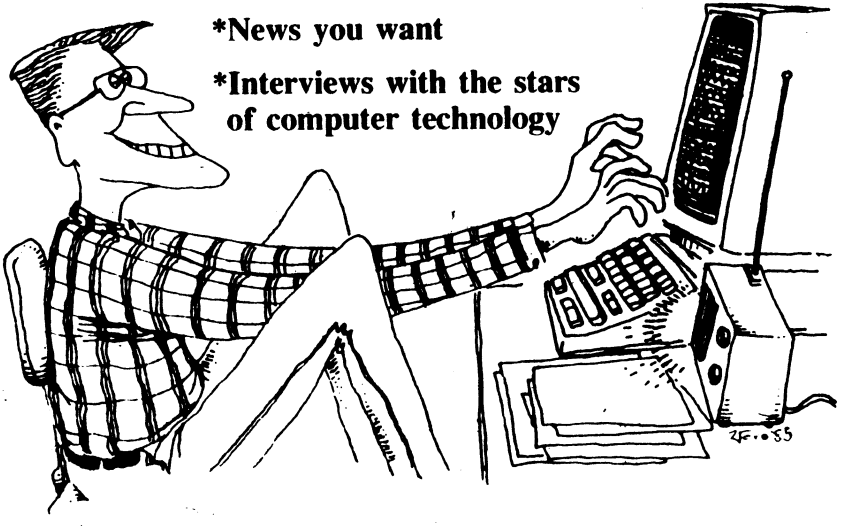
THE COMPUTER CONNECTION

A humorous, entertaining radio show on computers with:

***Information you need**

***News you want**

***Interviews with the stars of computer technology**



Broadcast every weekend on:

WYNY, New York City
WBAL, Baltimore
KING-AM, Seattle
KGU, Honolulu
KSMG-FM, San Antonio

In Canada
CKO Radio Network

Halifax	Edmonton
Toronto	Ottowa
Calgary	Vancouver
Montreal	London, Ontario

If your favorite radio station isn't listed above, ask the program director to call:

The Computer Connection
(201) 664-7200

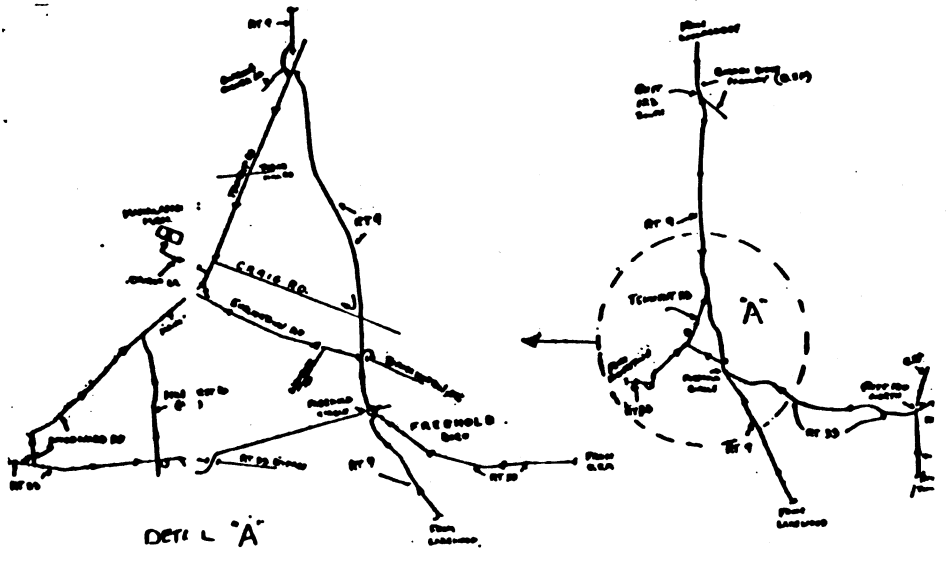
In New York Sunday at midnight

WYNY -- FM 97.7 (after Dr. Ruth)

DIRECTIONS_TO_MOM

From Northern Jersey
Take the Garden State parkway to exit 123 (route 9 south). Take route 9 south to Craig Rd. Manalapan (look for Bradleys Dept. Store on the right). Make a right onto Craig Rd. and follow it to the end. At the "T" make a left and then the first right. Follow this road Approx. 1/2 mile. The school is on the right. The meetings start at 8:00 P.M., see you there...

From Southern Jersey
Take Route 9 North past the Route 33 Circle in Freehold. Continue north to the Craig Road/Pond Road jughandle. Cross over Route 9 onto Craig Road and continue as above.



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

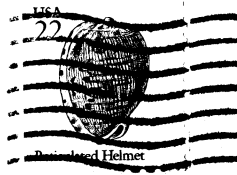
The Computer Club of Monmouth, Inc.

(Dues are $18.00/year/individual or family)

Name_____Phone_____
Street_____
City_____State____Zip Code_____
Hardware Owned_____
System Use-games,programming etc-:_____
I can help with_____

Send to M.O.M.
P.O.Box 221
Englishtown, NJ 07726

KILMER FACILITY, NJ 088
JAN 8
PM
1986


USA
22
Helmet